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MONTANA TODAY

MONTANA DIVISION OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 3, FALL, 1972

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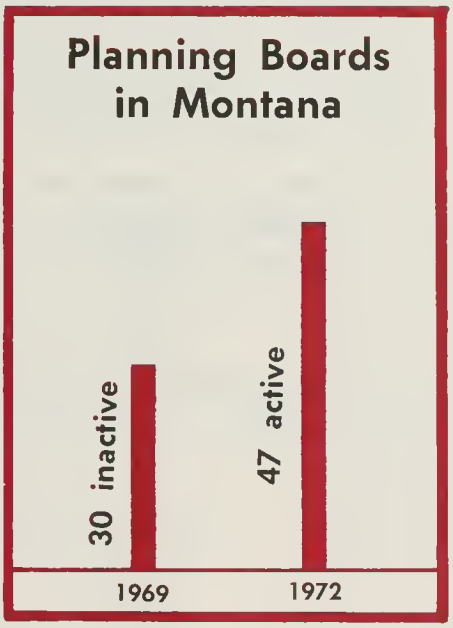
THREE YEAR PLANNING GOAL ACHIEVED

In the past three years, with reasonable funding, nearly 70% of the Department of Planning and Economic Development effort has been toward planning at the state and local level, 6-7% for research concerned mainly with planning, about 7% for data bases and information systems necessary to planning, and about 7% for development to strengthen the economic position of the state and its communities and to help stabilize and create income and employment opportunities.



These three years of activities which resulted in important advances are significant because at the beginning of this period, the planning commission set the goal of developing a competent professional department to guide state planning and development and, aid local governments. Perry Roys was then selected and hired as director. A Bozeman native who had once headed the department, Roys was then directing the Greater Buffalo (New York) Development Foundation.

Three years ago there were fewer than 30 city-county planning boards in the state, and most were inactive. Three had the assistance of professional planning staffs but local planning was basically an ineffective and fruitless activity.

Today there are 47 local planning boards, most of whom are highly active. Through direct encouragement and financial assistance of the Department, full-time local professional staffs have been added in six areas.

Prior to the 1971 legislative session, "county-wide" planning was illegal. The Department, working with the Montana Legislative Council and a blue ribbon citizens committee, prepared model legislation which in the form of House Bill 79 was passed by the legislature.

The bill corrected serious deficiencies by providing for county-wide planning and otherwise strengthened planning at the local level. Since that bill became law, slightly more than a year ago, 20% of the state's counties have formed or are in the process of forming county-wide planning boards with the assistance of the Department of Planning.

The Department established a policy of advocating the need for strong effective local planning organizations. This was often difficult as many persons desired to assign planning to the level of state government rather than local. *The Department*

Continued on Page 2

"...the most essential link is and must remain the point of action — city and county government."

policy, however, recognizes that many levels of government play a role in planning, but the most essential link is and must remain the point of action—city and county government.

In these three years the planning department developed a highly capable, professional staff which has resulted directly in placing Montana in a much improved position for federal assistance for state and local planning. Because of this effort, in Fiscal Year 1973, federal planning funds to Montana exceed $800,000. This compares with only slightly more than $150,000 in 1967.

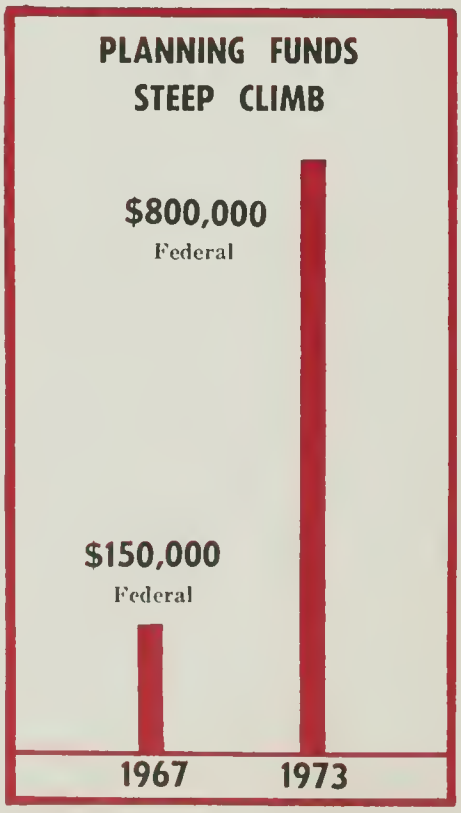
During Fiscal Year 1972 the Department completed the first phase of Montana's first state-wide transportation study, a portion of the first national transportation study. This study considered all major forms of transportation and not only highways. The study was directed at keeping and making the state and Montana's communities eligible for federal assistance for better and safer highways and other means of transportation which are badly needed in many areas of the state.

The Department has also established and maintained a Clearinghouse for federal grants and environmental impact statements which originate in Montana. The Clearinghouse activities have served to improve coordination of federally funded activities and provide better planning services throughout the state. Last year it processed projects worth $90 million.

In a major step toward state-wide comprehensive planning, the Department recently established regional offices in eastern and western Montana. These offices are staffed by full-time professional planners to provide technical planning services and financial aid to units of local government.

The Department has also prepared and distributed numerous technical reports and publications oriented to the needs of local planning offices. One outstanding recent effort is the guidelines and model regulations for **Subdivisions.** After providing 500 copies to local government, the interest expressed demanded a second printing. Another publication in continuous demand is the **Montana Data Book.**

In addition, through the Planning Department, Montana was the first state in the nation to process and make available 1970 census data of a local and statewide nature. Associated with this, the Department is now in the forefront in the development and implementation of land use planning and management aids using computer methods for data handling and other scientific techniques for land use mapping and evaluation. Areas of the state where these techniques are under study or application include an environmental approach to planning in the Gallatin Canyon, a resource mapping and evaluation program in the Helena Valley, and a land capability analysis in Flathead County. As a result, many private, state and federal agencies are coming to Montana to learn about these advanced and practical techniques.



Overall, despite the controversial nature of planning, the Department has promoted and assisted a great increase in sound planning activity and interest on a state-wide basis through a program of continuing planning education. In short, in contrast to decades of poor results, the Department in a little more than three years fulfilled the goal of its commission by managing to give planning a much needed forward thrust while recognizing individual and property rights and the need to protect our environment.

GRANTS SPECIALIST AVAILABLE

Communities needing help in securing federal grants may now find assistance from the state Division of Planning and Economic Development. With the recognition that many communities have limited funds, staff, time and expertise, the Community Development Bureau has recently added a grants specialist to its staff.

The grants specialist will help locate appropriate funding sources for specific projects, assist local officials with the writing of applications and act as a liaison with governmental agencies.

Hal Price, Community Development Chief, announced that Drew Dawson has been appointed to the grants specialist spot and will work out of the department's Helena office.

Price noted that it is not possible for Dawson to be familiar with all available programs, their guidelines and regulations, so users of the grants specialist service should recognize research may often precede action.

Montana Planning and Economic Development answers questions about ——

USING REVENUE SHARING

Revenue sharing is a fact. It is also a factor involving numerous questions.

As it is a fact of government life, the common questions must be answered in order to insure that the funds are used properly. This article is an attempt to answer such questions.

Revenue sharing is a result of federal awareness that state and local revenue have not climbed with the local spending pace, and that federal grant programs can't be sufficiently individually tailored to local needs to completely alleviate the need for additional revenues.

President Nixon's "new federalism" is aimed at helping local officials assume a greater role in the decision making process through allocation and spending of local and federal funds. Responsibility for establishing priorities and spending at least a portion of the revenue sharing dollars thus rests with local officials.

In some instances, a distorted view of the purpose for revenue sharing has been fomented as local and state leaders have been pressured and flooded with suggestions and requests from special interest groups to use the funds to support their own programs. Revenue Sharing is intended to be relatively free from special interest programs or pressures. According to the Act, its success hinges on local responsibility as pointed out through the following questions and answers.

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1. **How is our share of revenue sharing determined?**
Congress has appropriated funds to be distributed among state and local governments according to two formulas. The one which gives each state the most funds will be used. The three-factor formula considers population, general tax effort (state & local) and the relative income factor of the state. The five-factor formula considers population, urbanized population, population inversely related to per capita income, income tax collections and general tax effort.
Of Montana's share, one-third goes to the state and two-thirds to general purpose local government units such as counties and towns in this manner:

   County Areas: Amount based upon population, tax effort and relative income (compared to other counties in Montana).

   A. County government: Share based upon adjusted taxes of county government in relation to adjusted taxes of all local government units in the county (including county government).

   B. Towns and Cities: The remaining funds are distributed among towns and cities based upon population, tax effort and relative income as compared to the other towns and cities in the county.

   In any event, the per capita grant to any county must be greater than 20% of the state per capita grant but not more than 145%. The amount of money, however, to a government unit cannot be more than 50% of that government's adjusted taxes including intergovernmental transfer, though no payment of less than $200 will be made.

2. **May the state change the amount of money going to local governments?**
By law the state legislature may change the distribution formula applying to county areas and units of local government, but it may do so only once, and any such changes must apply uniformly throughout Montana. Such a change would see the distribution formula based upon population weighted by tax effort or population weighted by relative income.

3. **What data are used in determining allocations?**
Population and per capita income figures are taken from the 1970 census. An effort is now underway to update the tax information to better determine initial allocations.

4. **How will we know what data are actually used?**
The Treasury Department will publish all information upon which the computations are based.

Continued on Next Page

5. **What if we disagree with the allocation?**
An appeal method will be provided and the Secretary of the Treasury can withhold funds from each unit to make subsequent adjustments for errors.

6. **When will we receive the first check?**
The first check should have been received this month (it is for the period January 1, 1972, to June 30, 1972). The next check should come about the first week of January for the period July 1, 1972, to December 31, 1972. Thereafter payments will be made within five days after the end of each fiscal year quarter.

7. **How much money will we receive?**
Accurate information should come with the first checks, as original estimates were based on old tax data, according to Treasury Department officials.

8. **Will local government units have to apply for funds?**
NO. The funds will be distributed directly to each government unit.

9. **Must plans to spend the money be submitted?**
Spending plans are not required for the first two checks covering 1972. For checks covering 1973 and future years, plans will be required, although at this point no definite guidelines are available. Possible Congressional action on future special revenue sharing bills will likely underscore the importance of developing spending plans for **all** federal revenue.

10. **Just what "strings" are attached?**
The entire concept of revenue sharing is to allow local officials to set priorities and to give them the responsibility for spending these funds.

However, there are certain restrictions that require local governments to use the funds for these high-priority items:

A. Ordinary and necessary maintenance and operating expenses for:
   - —public safety (including law enforcement, fire protection, building code enforcement)
   - —environmental protection (including sewage disposal, sanitation, pollution abatement)
   - —public transportation (including transit systems, streets, roads)
   - —health
   - —recreation
   - —libraries
   - —social services for the poor or aged
   - —financial administration

B. Ordinary and necessary capital expenditures authorized by law.

The chief executive officer of each government unit must certify that the funds were used in accordance with these regulations.

11. **How must the state share be used?**
There are no restrictions upon Montana as long as the funds are spent in a manner consistent with state law. However, through a maintenance of effort clause, the state cannot reduce state funds going to local government without future reductions in the state portion of revenue sharing. It also must follow the same budgetary laws and procedures as for spending of state revenues.

12. **Can we use revenue sharing funds as a "match" to receive other federal funds?**
NO. Either direct or indirect use to match other federal funds is specifically prohibited by law. This means revenue sharing funds cannot be used to replace funds from a budget category so the "freed-up" funds can be used as a match; this is an illegal, indirect match. However, revenue sharing funds may be used to supplement other federal grant programs consistent with the high-priority items. In this case they may be used to defray costs in excess of the federal grant plus the local match.

13. **Will this prohibition be subject to federal audit?**
YES. Government units must prove that sufficient increased revenue from local sources is available for each match.

14. **Can Montana and/or local government units use revenue sharing to reduce taxes?**
YES. Providing state law authorized Montana to do this with its own revenues, it may do so with revenue sharing funds. Local governments may reduce taxes only if the funds are used for the high-priority items.

15. **What happens to the next years allocation if taxes are reduced?**
Presumably, a tax decrease could result in a lower revenue sharing allocation. This is because tax effort is a factor in the allocation formula. However, this is dependent on the tax situation in other cities, counties and states. In addition a reduction in taxes might make it more difficult to demonstrate ability to provide a match for other federal funds.

16. **What reports will be required by the federal government?**
It will be necessary to send spending reports to the Secretary of the Treasury and to publish these reports in a local newspaper. The report for the first entitlement period check will be due March 1, 1974.

17. **How long do we have to spend these funds?**
The funds must be used or appropriated within 24 months from the date of the check unless an exception is granted by the Treasury.

18. **Can we count on revenue sharing in the future?**
YES. The act is unusual because it is both an authorization and appropriations law lasting five years, through December 31, 1976, with increasing funds available each year.

UE SHARING

19. **What other assurances must recipients make to the Treasury?**
Beginning with entitlement periods of January, 1973, every government must satisfy to the Treasury the following points (with possible review and comment regarding local government by Montana's Governor):

a. It will establish a trust fund for all revesharing payments.

b. It will use the funds and any interest earned during the reasonable periods provided in the regulations.

c. Local governments will spend the funds only for high-priority items or repay 110% of those funds spent in violation.

d. Expenditure of funds will be in accordance with the same laws and procedures applicable to the spending of its own revenues.

e. Fiscal, accounting and auditing procedures will be used which conform to Treasury guidelines.

f. Reasonable access to all papers, records, books, documents and other such items will be provided to the Treasury or Comptroller General.

g. All annual and interim reports required will be made.

h. Employees paid from revenue sharing will be paid at least the same wage as other employees doing similar work for that government unit.

i. Employees on construction projects financed 25% or more by revenue sharing funds will be paid wages not less than those prevailing on similar construction projects in the locality in conformance with the David-Bacon Act.

20. **What if funds are not spent according to regulations?**
Then the government unit must repay those funds to the Treasury promptly with a possible repayment of 110%.

21. **When will guidelines be published?**
Interim regulations for the first entitlement period were published in the Federal Register, October 28, 1972. Final regulations will be published soon.

22. **May these funds be used for education?**
YES. If the state is authorized by law to spend state revenues on education, then those funds going to the state may be used for education. Localities may not use the funds for education except as capital expenditures which the local government might otherwise make in support of education.

23. **What federal agency administers these funds?**
The office of Revenue Sharing, Edward E. Fox, Interim-Director, at the Department of Treasury, Main Treasury Building, Washington, D.C. 20220. The phone number is 202/393-6400. A general information number is 202/628-4148.

24. **Do Indian tribes receive revenue sharing?**
YES. If the tribe has a recognized governing body performing substantial governmental functions, it will receive an allocation based upon the ratio of the population of the tribe to the population of the rest of the county area. The some local government spending rules apply; however, in addition, the funds must be used for the benefit of tribe members residing in the county area from which the allocation was originally made.

25. **Who will audit the expenditures?**
While the Treasury is authorized to provide for audits, it is expected that reliance will be on state, county and municipal auditors. Treasury auditors will operate primarily on a sample basis. Also, the General Accounting Office, an arm of Congress rather than the Administration, may perform a greater auditing function, especially regarding matching funds for all federal grant programs.

26. **Where do revenue sharing funds come from?**
They come from federal individual income taxes via the U.S. Treasury general fund.

27. **What procedure is followed if a new local government unit is incorporated?**
If this government unit came into existence during the first entitlement period it would be eligible to receive allocations for the second period beginning July 1, 1972.

28. **Can revenue sharing funds be invested?**
YES. However, any interest earned must also be spent in accordance with the regulations.

29. **What influence will federal officials have on spending?**
Federal officials have been instructed not to tell local officials how to use their funds. This has been a fault with categorical grant-in-aid programs and a primary reason for revenue sharing. As an object of revenue sharing is to give local officials the opportunity to determine their own priorities and spend funds upon those priorities, the responsibility rests with the officials of the governments receiving the funds.

30. **Must we complete questionnaires from the Bureau of Census requesting tax information?**
YES. Failure to comply with requests from either the census bureau or the Treasury may place the receipt of funds in jeopardy as payments will not be made when not enough information is supplied to make allocation computions.

31. **Are school taxes included in the tax effort of a state or local government?**
YES, they are included in the state tax effort; but NO, they are not part of the local tax effort factor.

Annual Report: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TAKES 67% OF BUDGET

Community development activities throughout Montana accounted for two-thirds of the $841,000 expended by the Department of Planning and Economic Development during the last fiscal year, according to the 1972 annual report submitted to the governor by Perry Roys, executive director.

Since the end of the '72 fiscal year, the department became a division within the newly created Department of Intergovernmental Relations.

In transmitting the report to the governor, Roys commented that the "accomplishments represent the culmination of a three year goal, set by the Commission; a goal which set as an objective the establishment of programs and devolpment of a professional planning force capable of carrying out a more positive role in an expanding sphere of state responsibilities in resolving problems and achieving sound and balanced growth and development." (See adjacent article for details.)

The first major accomplishment listed refers to improved fiscal and staff management which resulted in revenue saving through better accounting controls and development of a more qualified professional planning staff.

The program cost summary shows that besides community development, 6.9% of the funds went for the statistical Information Systems Division, 6.8% for the Economic Development Division, 6.2% for the Research Division and 12.9% for administration.

The revenue for the department came primarily from federal sources as matching state and local grants, according to Roys. These federal and some private grants accounted for 48% of the revenue, $403,719; while direct federal and private funds amounted to 16.9% or $141,619. Revenue from the state general fund for operating and grant matching purposes, amounted to only 34.9% or $292,773. The department's revolving fund was 1.2%, $2,850.

The second accomplishment cited is the stimulation of a statewide concern for the establishment of planning as a necessary function of government. The report mentions work proceeding for the development of a state-wide land-use plan and the unique development within the U. S. by the department of a new type of land-use mapping by computer. This new mapping technique is being used in the Helena Valley as a pilot program in which contours, water tables, ownerships, soil types, and numerous other factors are all plotted on map overlays of the region.

Major community and area plans were mentioned as the third accomplishment. The department aided 44 communities and 14 counties with comprehensive planning. In addition it headed the governor's ABM impact area task force which brought in $4 million of federal community development funds before ABM was suspended, and a comprehensive plan for the area was completed. Further, the comprehensive report on the Gallatin Canyon was completed to aid residents and local governments in planning for their future.

The Division's efforts were recognized by HUD which indicated that for fiscal '73 it would substantially increase federal matching grants.

Economic development efforts were noted to have resulted in stirring interest among more than 100 businesses for potential expansion in the state. Efforts by the department and others in the state was estimated to have resulted in an additional 750 direct full-time positions and an additional 1,000 indirect jobs.

The Information Systems division said it continued to supply state and local census data, often in unique map forms; and developed land-use planning tools and management aids.

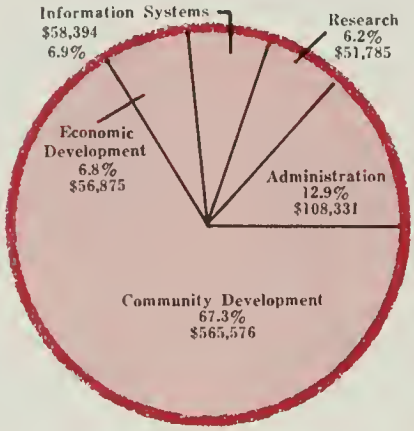
Some of the other accomplishments cited included aid to the governor regarding designating and implementing multi-county districts for more effective use of state resources; completing five housing studies and methodolgy for doing more studies; causing a near-term evaluation of the wood products industry; and reviewing more than $90 million of federally funded projects in the state to eliminate duplication and suggest improvements.

The department also mentioned that as its Research Division completed a series of housing studies, it began to shift emphasis to studies of the effects and problems involved with coal development in eastern Montana.

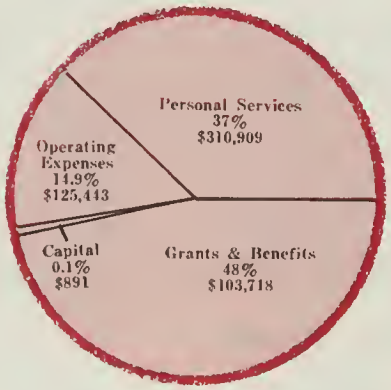
The Information Systems Division, with the aid of computers, monitored 799 federal grants that came into the state with a value of $164,500,000 for state and local use.

The Community Development Division also completed the first phase of Montana's portion of a national transportation study, and began phase II. The division also carried out a training program for local governments regarding budgeting, and planning and regulatory procedures.

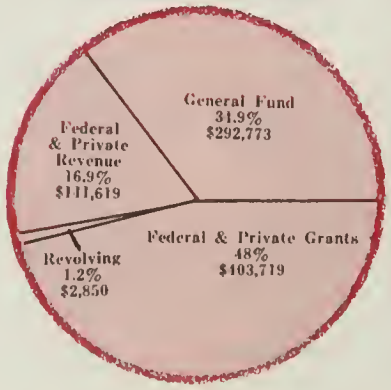
EXPENSES BY PROGRAM



EXPENSES BY OBJECT



SOURCES OF FUNDING



Coal Development Impact Affects Communities

Coal mining seems destined to become a major factor in Montana's future economy, whatever the pace and scale of its development may turn out to be. Already in preparation or under discussion are legislative proposals affecting its development, but it is also going to stimulate community and regional planning that could and should profoundly affect the social and living environments of eastern Montanans.

At least 14 counties and as many cities and towns are already directly involved, or could be, in coal-related growth in Montana. The comprehensive planning in which they will be involved includes not only that for homes and businesses, but for transportation, public services, and other growth-related facilities.

Many of the forces acting to increase coal development—like those that in past years exerted pressures to develop other Montana resources—are outside the state. The primary markets, so far at least, are primarily the utility firms of the midwest and the eastern states, where the bulk of our population and industry are found.

Areas like metropolitan Chicago, for example, are trying to clean up the air for their six million-plus residents, under stringent pollution controls that include prohibitions against the use of high sulfur-content Illinois coal. Thus the Commonwealth Edison Company is buying Montana coal at higher prices than the local product, in order to reduce its pollution output. The same basic conditions, and similar reactions to solve some of air pollution problems, are occurring throughout most of the country.

The problem, and concurrently the demand for Montana's low-sulphur coal is compounded by what may be termed a coming "energy crunch." Gas is running low. Oil is running out. Importing fuels would make the U.S. heavily dependent upon the supplier countries who could then call the tune for many of our policies and actions. Nuclear capabilities are developing too slowly to alleviate the crunch for the next 25-50 years.

As one energy expert recently said: "We passed on the short-term benefit of cheap fuels to the consumer. We've been on a 50-year drunk. Natural gas and coal have been given away. Now society has to make a choice. If it doesn't want it, fine. But if it wants the fuels, it has to pay."

But the question may be academic. People, in Montana, Chicago, New York, Youngstown, Ohio, or wherever, want heat and they want electricity.

The energy crunch is already being felt in a somewhat indirect way as oil companies convert less oil to gasoline in order to produce heating and fuel oils. Independent, non-major chain dealers are beginning to have a rough time keeping their pumps full and some gasoline manufacturers' estimates indicate prices may even double within a few years.

Coupled with the anti-pollution and energy crunch stimulus, three factors have led coal companies and coal-hungry users to Montana coal: low-sulfur content, shallow overburden, and unit trains of a hundred or more computer-controlled loading and unloading cars.

Montana lies within the Fort Union coal region that includes three other states and parts of Canada. This region, with the largest remaining coal supply in the world is estimated to contain 40% of U.S. coal reserves totalling about 1.3 trillion tons, with Montana containing 23 billion tons of easily mined coal amongst its share of the vast reserves.

Current situation

Western Energy's operation at Colstrip began in 1968 when the Montana Power Co subsidiary mined a half million tons and moved in 1971 to 5.2 million tons, ranking it as the third largest U.S. coal mine. Current construction of a 700,000 kilowatt generating complex for 1975-76 operation will boost this tonnage output. Colstrip's Rosebud County will benefit with an increased taxable valuation of 2¾ times, and according to company officials $30 million of pollution control equipment is being installed to make sure the air quality doesn't suffer.

Peabody Coal, a subsidiary of Kennecott Copper Corp., is now supplying Minnesota Power and Light with 2.3 million tons annually from its Big Sky mine in Rosebud County.

Decker Coal Co. co-owned by Pacific Power and Peter Kiewit Son's Inc., Omaha, Neb., is shipping coal to Commonwealth Edison, Chicago, from its Rosebud County operation. The contract is for 22 million tons over a six year period. Pacific Power also controls reserves exceeding 1.5 billion tons in Montana and Wyoming.

Knife River Coal Co., a subsidiary of Montana-Dakota Utilities, is supplying about 320,000 tons annually from its Savage, Mont. mine to a generating station at Sidney.

Consolidation Coal Co., a subsidiary of Continental Oil, hopes to construct a coal gasification complex on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation at a cost

Continued on Next Page

AREAS AFFECTED BY COAL DEVELOPMENT

cities and towns

Savage	Birney
Baker	Hardin
Miles City	Saint Xavier
Broadus	Crow Agency
Lame Deer	Lodge Grass
Decker	Hysham
Ashland	Sidney

counties

Richland*	Powder River*
Fallon*	Sheridan
Custer*	Roosevelt
Rosebud*	McCone
Treasure*	Dawson
Musselshell*	Wibaux
Big Horn*	Garfield

*devolpment and/or leasing activity in progress

MAJOR FIRMS INTERESTED IN MONTANA COAL

Western Energy Co.
Butte, Mont.
(Montana Power Co.)

Knife River Coal Co.
Bismarck, N. D.
(Montana-Dakota Utilities)

Decker Coal Co.
Portland, Ore.
(Pacific Power & Light;
Peter Kiewit Son's Inc., Omaha)

Consolidation Coal Co.
Pittsburgh, Pa.
(Continental Oil Co.)

Amax Coal Co.
Indianapolis, Ind.

Peabody Coal Co.
St. Louis, Mo.
(Kennecott Copper Corp.)

Westmoreland Coal Co.
Philadelphia, Pa.
(Westmoreland Resources)

Chevron Oil Co.
San Francisco, Calif.

Gulf Mineral Resources Co.
Denver, Colo.
(Gulf Oil Co.)

Norsworthy and Reger, Inc.
Billings, Mont.

Shell Oil Co.
Denver, Colo.

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DEPARTMENT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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Coal – continued

of $1 billion. However, Dell Adams, vice president of the western division said the project is "highly speculative." Details are non-existent, but if successful, the project could create thousands of construction jobs and hundreds of permanent positions starting in 1978 or sooner.

Westmoreland Coal Co. has rights on 60,000 acres in Big Horn County known as Sarpy Creek. About 300 million tons of the 1.1 billion ton deposit are already contracted to Colorado Interstate Gas Co. along with 10,000 acre feet of water rights owned by Westmoreland. Altogether Westmoreland has rights on 30,000 acre feet of water necessary for gasification or power generation.

The challenge

Perhaps one of the biggest challenges accompanying coal development, besides reclamation, will be comprehensive planning to help towns grow in orderly, harmonious and environmentally pleasing ways that will be socially and visually enjoyable for the citizens of eastern Montana. Inherent in this planning is proper transportation and public service planning.

Regional Offices Open

Eastern and western Montana cities and counties are now benefiting from the services of professional planners stationed in Sidney and Missoula by the state division of Planning and Economic Development. Art Tackett and Carlo Porteen recently joined the department with the goal of aiding those counties and cities in these areas with all types of comprehensive planning.

In announcing the appointments, Perry Roys, division administrator, commented that Tackett and Porteen are the first of four professional planners to be placed in field office. Tackett's office is at 222 Second Avenue S.W., Sidney. Porteen is at 609 S. Higgins, Missoula.

In discussing functions, Hal Price, community development head, noted the planners would be helping planning boards both devise and implement community plans. The idea, Price said, is to get planning moving ahead positively and beneficially.

Porteen returns

Both Porteen and his wife, Kari, are Montana natives. For the past two years Porteen was planning director at Texas City, Texas, 39,000 population, in the Houston-Galveston area. His return to Montana fulfilled a desire of wanting to return home. He is also a graduate of the state university system.

As part of his previous position, he served on the regional planning council of 23 governments for the Houston-Galveston area. He has written a subdivision ordinance, a general land-use plan and developed a coordinated traffic signal system, besides successfully applying for $1.5 million of federal outdoor recreation funds.

Tackett eager

In opening the eastern office, Tackett expressed an eagerness to serve the people of the area. He joined the state after working at Richland, Wash., where he was the planner for the Denton-Franklin Governmental Conference. His planning group served 12 municipalities and two rural and agricultural counties, plus school districts.

Tackett was accompanied in the move by his wife, Sande. He has two college degrees, one in geography/urban planning, and the other in education.

While heading the Washington planning group, Tackett worked on a comprehensive plan for the area. This included a recreational plan which he wrote and a housing study. He was also a member of the state transportation task force.

Both planners intend to serve any group or local government unit desiring professional assistance for planning purposes. They will travel their areas extensively.

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PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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Montana Today reports planning and economic development events in Montana. The reports reflect official action or policy only. Insofar as they indicate. Reports on business affairs should be in no way construed as endorsing a concern or its products.

3

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Coal – continued

of $1 billion. However, Dell Adams, vice president of the western division said the project is "highly speculative." Details are non-existent, but if successful, the project could create thousands of construction jobs and hundreds of permanent positions starting in 1978 or sooner.

Westmoreland Coal Co. has rights on 60,000 acres in Big Horn County known as Sarpy Creek. About 300 million tons of the 1.1 billion ton deposit are already contracted to Colorado Interstate Gas Co. along with 10,000 acre feet of water rights owned by Westmoreland. Altogether Westmoreland has rights on 30,000 acre feet of water necessary for gasification or power generation.

The challenge

Perhaps one of the biggest challenges accompanying coal development, besides reclamation, will be comprehensive planning to help towns grow in orderly, harmonious and environmentally pleasing ways that will be socially and visually enjoyable for the citizens of eastern Montana. Inherent in this planning is proper transportation and public service planning.

Regional Offices Open

Eastern and western Montana cities and counties are now benefiting from the services of professional planners stationed in Sidney and Missoula by the state division of Planning and Economic Development. Art Tackett and Carlo Porteen recently joined the department with the goal of aiding those counties and cities in these areas with all types of comprehensive planning.

In announcing the appointments, Perry Roys, division administrator, commented that Tackett and Porteen are the first of four professional planners to be placed in field office. Tackett's office is at 222 Second Avenue S.W., Sidney. Porteen is at 609 S. Higgins, Missoula.

In discussing functions, Hal Price, community development head, noted the planners would be helping planning boards both devise and implement community plans. The idea, Price said, is to get planning moving ahead positively and beneficially.

Porteen returns

Both Porteen and his wife, Kari, are Montana natives. For the past two years Porteen was planning director at Texas City, Texas, 39,000 population, in the Houston-Galveston area. His return to Montana fulfilled a desire of wanting to return home. He is also a graduate of the state university system.

As part of his previous position, he served on the regional planning council of 23 governments for the Houston-Galveston area. He has written a subdivision ordinance, a general land-use plan and developed a coordinated traffic signal system, besides successfully applying for $1.5 million of federal outdoor recreation funds.

Tackett eager

In opening the eastern office, Tackett expressed an eagerness to serve the people of the area. He joined the state after working at Richland, Wash., where he was the planner for the Denton-Franklin Governmental Conference. His planning group served 12 municipalities and two rural and agricultural counties, plus school districts.

Tackett was accompanied in the move by his wife, Sande. He has two college degrees, one in geography/urban planning, and the other in education.

While heading the Washington planning group, Tackett worked on a comprehensive plan for the area. This included a recreational plan which he wrote and a housing study. He was also a member of the state transportation task force.

Both planners intend to serve any group or local government unit desiring professional assistance for planning purposes. They will travel their areas extensively.